Sayula Popoluca

Sayula Popoluca, also called **Sayultec**, is a Mixe language spoken by around 4,000 indigenous people in and around the town of Sayula de Alemán in the southern part of the state of Veracruz, Mexico. Almost all published research on the language has been the work of Lawrence E. Clark of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. More recent studies of Sayula Popoluca have been conducted by Dennis Holt (lexico-semantics) and Richard A. Rhodes (morphology and syntax), but few of their findings have been published.

Sayula Popoluca	
Sayultec	
Native to	Mexico
Region	Veracruz
Native speakers	3,030 (2007)[1]
Language family	Mixe–Zoque • Mixean • **Sayula Popoluca**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	pos
Glottolog	sayu1241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sayu1241)[2]

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Etymology

Popoluca is the Castilian alteration of the Nahuatl word *popoloca*, meaning 'barbarians' or 'people speaking a foreign language'.[3] In Mexico, the name *Popoluca* is a traditional name for various Mixe-Zoquean languages, and the name *Popoloca* is a traditional name for a totally unrelated language belonging to the Oto-Manguean languages.

Natively it is known as *yamay ajw* 'local language' or *tʉcmay-ajw* 'language of the home'.[3]

Phonology

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosives	b, p	d, t		g, k	ʔ
Fricatives		s	ʃ		h
Affricates		ts, tʃ			
Nasals	m	n			
Approximants	w	l, r	j		

s is only found in Spanish loans.

	Front	Central	Back
High	i, iː, iʔ	ɨ, ɨː, ɨʔ	u, uː, uʔ
Mid	e, eː, eʔ		o, oː, oʔ
Low		a, aː, aʔ	

Sayula vowels are short, long, and broken (i.e. glottalized, represented here as Vʔ).

There are two systems of orthography in the published literature.

- Clark (1961, 1995) uses some Spanish orthographic principles. *h* is spelled *j*. *j* is spelled *y*. *ʔ* is spelled *_'*. *ʃ* is spelled *š*. *tʃ* is spelled *ch*. *k* is spelled *qu* before *i* and *e*, and *c* elsewhere. Similarly *g* is spelled *gu* before *i* and *e*, and *g* elsewhere. Syllable final *w* is spelled *u*. *ɨ* is spelled *ʉ*. Vowel length is indicated by an underline. Unassimilated Spanish loans are spelled as in Spanish.
- Clark (1983) uses an orthography closer to IPA, but as in the other orthography *ɨ* is spelled *ʉ*, and *ʔ* is spelled *_'*. *s* is *š*. *ts* is spelled *c*. *tʃ* is spelled *č*. Length is spelled *ː*.

The orthography of Clark (1983) is used here.

Morphology

Sayula Popoluca verbs are inflected for person and number of subject and object, for aspect, and for the difference between independent and dependent.

Intransitive independent			
'walk'	imperfective	perfective	future
yo 'y	***-p***	**-w**	***-áh***
1sg *tʉ-*	*tʉyó 'yp*	*tʉyó 'yw*	*tʉyò 'yáh*
2sg *mi-*	*miyó 'yp*	*miyó 'yw*	*miyò 'yáh*
3rd Ø	*yó 'yp*	*yó 'yw*	*yò 'yáh*
1 excl *tʉ- -ga*	*tʉyó 'ygap*	*tʉyó 'ygaw*	*tʉyò 'ygáh*
1 incl *na- -ga*	*nayó 'ygap*	*nayó 'ygaw*	*nayò 'ygáh*
2pl *mi- -ga*	*miyó 'ygap*	*miyó 'ygaw*	*miyò 'ygáh*
3pl *-ga*	*yó 'ygap*	*yó 'ygaw*	*yò 'ygáh*

Dependency is marked by the allomorphy of the aspect markers, as shown in the following paradigm.

Intransitive dependent			
'walk'	imperfective	perfective	future
yo 'y	**-Ø**	**-h**	***-wá 'n***
1sg *tʉ-*	*tʉyó 'y*	*tʉyó 'hy*	*tʉyò 'ywá 'n*
2sg *'in-*	*'inyó 'y*	*'inyó 'hy*	*'inyò 'ywá 'n*
3rd *'i-*	*'iyó 'y*	*'iyó 'hy*	*'iyò 'ywá 'n*
1 excl *tʉ- -ga*	*tʉyó 'yga*	*tʉyó 'ygah*	*tʉyò 'ywá 'n*
1 incl *na- -ga*	*nayó 'yga*	*nayó 'ygah*	*nayò 'ygawá 'n*
2pl *'in- -ga*	*'inyó 'yga*	*'inyó 'ygah*	*'inyò 'ygawá 'n*
3pl *'i- -ga*	*'iyó 'yga*	*'iyó 'ygah*	*'iyò 'ygawá 'n*

Sayula Popoluca marks agreement in transitive clause in an <u>inverse system</u> (Tatsumi, 2013). Speech Act Participants (SAP) 1EXCL, 1INCL, and 2 outrank 3. There is a separate system in which a topical 3rd person (PROXIMATE) outranks a non-topical 3rd person (OBVIATIVE). The pattern of person marking is given in Table I (adapted from Tatsumi, 2013:88).

Independent Transitive person markers						
	Object	**SAP**			**Non-SAP**	
Subject		**1EXCL**	**1INCL**	**2**	**3PROX**	**3OBV**
	1EXCL			*tʉ=*	*tʉn=*	
SAP	**1INCL**				*na=*	
	2	*'iš=*			*in=*	
Non-SAP	**3PROX**	*tʉ=š-*	*na=š-*	*'i=š-*		*'i=*
	3OBV				*'igi=*	

Table I

The inverse system is also reflected in the form of the plural marker. In the case in which a higher ranking singular acts on a lower ranking plural, the plural marker is *-kʉš-*, elsewhere the plural is as in the singular, *-ka-*. An example paradigm is given below:

Transitive independent										
imperfective		**sg object**			**pl object**					
	yu :giy- 'cure'	**1**	**2**	**3**	**1excl**	**1incl**	**2**	**3**		
sg	**1**	—	*tʉyu :gip*	*tʉnyu :gip*	—	—	*tʉyu :gigʉšp*	*tʉnyu :gigʉšp*		
subj	**2**	*'išyu :gip*	—	*'inyu :gip*	*'išyu :gigap*	—	—	*'inyu :gigʉšp*		
	3	*tʉšyu :gip*	*'išyu :gip*	*'iyu :gip*	*tʉšyu :gigap*	*našyu :gigap*	*'išyu :gigap*	*'iyu :gigʉšp*		
				'igiyu :gip				*'igiyu :gigap*		

Inversion affects he allomorphy of both the person marking and the aspect marking (Clark (1961:195) with the result that the inverse forms have no distinct dependent form.

Transitive dependent												
imperfective			**sg object**				**pl object**					
		yu:giy-'cure'	**1**	**2**	**3**		**1excl**	**1incl**	**2**	**3**		
subj **sg**	**1**		—	*tʉyu:giy*	*tʉšyu:giy*		—	—	*tʉyu:gigʉš*	*tʉšyu:gigʉš*		
	2		*ʼišyu:gip*	—	*ʼišyu:giy*		*ʼišyu:gigap*	—		*ʼišyu:gigʉš*		
	3		*tʉšyu:gip*	*ʼišyu:gip*		*ʼigiyu:giy*	*tʉšyu:gigap*	*našyu:gigap*	*ʼišyu:gigap*		*ʼigiyu:gigʉš*	
						ʼigiyu:gip				*ʼigiyu:gigap*		

Notes

1. "Popoluca, Sayula" (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/pos). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2018-07-28.
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Sayula Popoluca" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sayu1241). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Sistema de Información Cultural 2007.

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